

[ABSTRACT]

5 A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor is disclosed  
 which comprises a hydrophilic support and a coating provided  
 thereon, wherein the coating comprises an infrared light absorbing  
 cyanine dye, the dye containing a bridged methine chain and from  
 three to five groups which are anionic or which become anionic in an  
 10 aqueous alkaline solution having a pH of at least 9. Such dyes  
 provide high sensitivity and low dye stain after processing.